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BEST PAID MEN ARE NOW ASKING FOR HIGHER PA

Justice In Demands Of Train Service Employees.

By Judson C. Welliver in The Wash-

Administrative and legislative au thorities in Washington are taking a distinctly different views of the pres ent effort of railway trainmen to compel an advancement in their wages, from any that has been take. on former occasions.

It is very apparent that the case for the employes seeking highe wages is viewed with less amiability than ordinarily. In legislative cicles there has recently been seriou talk of legislation to prohibit strike by employes of interstate carriers and to provide a procedure for com pulsory arbitration.

The impression has gained a good deal of ground, that certain favore. classes of employes have for a long time been systematically aggregating to themselves most of the increases

Highest Paid Class Of Men On behalf of the enginemen and trainmen who are making the de mand for a large wage increase, it is urged that the higher cost of living justifies their demand. Yet these men, the engineers, firemen, conducors and brakemen, are the highest paid classes of railroad labor. The question being asked why an engineer getting an average wage in 1913 o \$5.20, should require an increase while trackmen, who were getting \$1.58 per day, should be left out?

Again, the average wage of conduc tors in 1912 is shown by the statistics sion to have been \$4.39 per day. At the same time, telegraph operators and dispatchers were getting an aver age wage of \$2.52 per day.

If the increased cost of living for the \$4.39 conductor necessitates a large increase in his compensation where does the \$2.52 dispatcher come

No demand is being urged on beadditional burden must be lain advanced from \$3.38 to \$4.20. on their labor funds they would like to give the benefit to the poorer paid classes of employes.

The truth of the whole business is that, as a whole, the railread em ploves of the country are not very highly paid as compared to other peo ple. A few classes of railroad mer are paid very high wages. The mos fortunate of all these classes are the engineers, firemen, conductors and brakemen.

Rate Rising Rapidly

Not only are these four classes paid nuch more liberally than other em pioyes, but the figures show tha their rate of wages has been rising more rapidly than that of any othe:

In 1914 the Interstate Commerce Commission's report showed the num ber of railroad employes for the en tire country to be 1,710,296. Out o: this number there were 62,021 en gineers, 64,959 firemen, 48,201 con ductors, and 136,809 other trainmen: a total of 311,990, or just about one sixth of the entire number.

At that same date, the number of trackmen, exclusive of foremen, was 337.451. That is, the number of com mon laborers on the section was greater than the entire roll of engineers, firemen, conductors, and brakemen. Yet this huge army of trackmen was working for an aver age wage of \$1.58 per day, while en gineers were getting \$5.20, firemen were getting \$2.13, conductors were getting \$4.39, and other trainmer were getting \$3.04. These figures are the commission's averages for the en

fire country. Condition Bettered

Largely because they are the best organized classes or railway worker and have been unremitting in thei demands for better wages, these four classes have succeeded in betterine their condition rapidly and regularly at the expense of the other classes which are not so highly organized.

The trainmen, whenever they insison a wage increase, have, on their ide, the tremendously potent argument that if they don't get what they ask, they can walk out and tie up the whole railroad system. No other lass of employes could do this, beause no other is so instantly indis-

How effectively the four favored classes have used their power is shown by the cold figures. In the ten years from 1903 to 1912, inclusive. the salaries of general officers increased an average of 17 per cent. In that same ten-year period the salaries of engineers increased 24

During those same ten years the wages of general office clerks increased 13 per cent, while the wages of firemen increased 32 per cent.

During those same ten years the wages of telegraph operators and dispatchers increased 14 per cent, while those of trainmen other than conductors increased 36 per cent.

Impressive Statement Here is an impressive statement of

" I have been a sufferer from stomace trouble for a number of years, and although I have used a great number of remedies recommended for this complaint Chamberlan's Tablets is the first medicine that has given me positive and lasting relief," writes Mrs. Anna Kadın, Spencerport, N. Y. "Chamberlain's Tableta have done wonders for me and I value them very highly." Obtainable everywhere.

fact about railway wages that ought not to escape attention. There we a total of 37,873 employes classifi: as switch tenders, crossing tenders. and watchmen. These were receiving in 1912 an average of \$1.70 per day, which was actually 6 cents a

day less than they had been receiving ten years earlier. At that time there were 48,201 con-

ductors with whom the statistic dealt. The conductors, therefore, were only a slightly more numerous class than the tenders and watchmen; yet, while the conductors had had their wages raised from \$3.38 to 14.29 per day, the less fortunat lass of tenders and watchmen ha o stand a reduction from \$1.76 t 11.70 per day.

If the cost of living has been stead ly advancing for conductors, so as to ustify an increase of 27 per cent in heir wages, it seems difficult to exlain why that same cost of living hould have failen sufficiently to warant a decrease of 3 per cent in the ages of switch tenders, crossing enders, and watchmen.

Take the single classification ceneral office clerks. There were 7,106 of these according to the ofcial report. A much larger number han of either engineers, firemen, or

These general office clerks were aid an average of \$2.21 per day in 903, and of \$2.50 in 1912; an inrease of only 13 per cent in the tenear period.

General office clerks, without exeption, are compelled to live in ities, where the cost of living is

Engineers Better Off

Engineers, on the other hand, are istributed between large towns and mall towns; on the average, their iving circumstances ought to make heir expenses average considerably ess than those of office clerks, yel he statistics show that engineers ave received in the ten-year period in increase of 24 per cent in their wages, making them average exactly 55 per day, while general office derks have received an increase of only 13 per cent, making them averige \$2.50 per day.

One of the worst underpaid classideations of railway employes is that of the station agents. There are just about 40,000 of these in the country, or nearly as many as the number of conductors.

In 1903 station agents averaged rate. half of the operators and dispatchers | \$1.80 a day, and in 1912 they had

> was getting just about half the wages of the conductor, and in ten years he

had had an average increase of 17 per cent, while the conductor's infrease had been 27 per cent. Here are two of the most numerous classes of railway employes:

frainmen, other than engineers, fremen, and conductors, numbered 36,809, while trackmen numbere 37,451. The statistics show that the rackmen were getting in 1903 an everage of \$1.31 per day, and in 1912 in average of \$1.50 per day, an increase of 14 per cent.

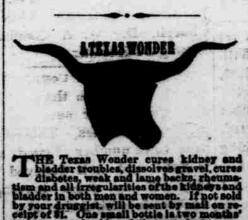
What Others Get On the other hand, the classificaion of other trainmen was getting in 1903 \$2.17 per day, and in 1912, \$2.96 per day, an increase of 36 per cent. in percentage, this is the largest adance received by any single class of railway employes during this decade. A general survey of wage conditions in the rallway service and in other industries, it is believed, would show that in the last fifteen years the highly organized and favored classes of railway wage earners have had their incomes increased more

than almost any other class of workers in the country, while the much more numerous, but less effectively organized classes of railway workers have probably received rather less ncreases than other industrial workers in general.

In view of the strong feeling that these most fortunate classes of the railway employes are now making excessive and unreasonable demands. attention is now being called as never before to these general discrepancies. There is a strong disposition to inaugurate a general and weeping inivestigation of the whole juestion of railway wages with a view to establishing some sort of pubic regulation not unlike that already applied to railroad rates, in the interest of employes and public alike Meanwhile, there is a marked indis position to extend further favors to hose classes already most highly favored, at the expense of other classes of employes who appear to be getting very low wages.

Effects Of a Tie-Up

It is calculated that if a general tie up and paralysis of all freight traffishould result from the demand of the freight trainmen for an increase of 2: per cent in their wages, a large num ber of the poorer people of New York lity would face starvation withir hree days; in other words, these cople have available supplies of food or not more than two days shead. Other large cities would face like con titions. Milk supplies would be cur off, and bables dependent on the daily nilk far for sustenance would be lef: o perish. The distress would react all classes everywhere, and morspecially the working people because actories necessarily would be shu lown on account of inability to se ure raw material or to ship fnishe



CRISIS FOR ROADS IN THE MOVEMENT

Southeastern Lines-Public Vitally Interested.

Washington, D. C .- The railways of the southeast are facing a critical situation in the proposed demands of the engineers', firemen's, conductors' and trainmen's Brotherhoods which have joined in a nation-wide effort to force the railways of the country to grant further wage concessions, which would add millions of dollars to the payrolls of the railways with out enabling them to earn a cent more than under present conditions or to in any way give better service to the public," declares a statement given out by the executive committee

of the southeastern railways. "The demands of the Brotherhoods are generally referred to as demands for an eight hour day and time and a half for overfime, but they are not in reality for an eight hour day in the sense in which that term is commonly understood," the statement continues. "The employees are no: asking that they be relieved from service at the end of eight hours, as they realize that this is not practicable in road service, and the form in which the demands have been made clearly shows this.

More Pay For Overtime "Thus the language of their own proposed demands is that on runs or one hundred miles or less overtime will begin at the expiration of eight hours. This simply means that if a freight train requires, as it usually does, at least 10 hours to run 100 miles, the train and engine employees shall receive their day's pay for eight hours of work and shall receive time and a half for the two additional

"There is not a line in the proposais concerning road service that in any way limits the number of hours the employees are to work and their proposition simply resolves itself into fixing the period at which overtime begins to accrue and after which they shall receive time and a half instead of their regular hourly

"In a discussion of the proposed and some of the railroads have lately been raised to only \$2.20 a day, while demands in the official journal of the been intimating vigorously that if : in that same time conductors had Trainmen's organization, the follow-That is, the station agent in 1912 given by one of the vice-presidents of that Brotherhoed:

> "There appears to be some differ ence of opinion as to what such a proposal involves, therefore it may be seasonable to say that there is quite a difference between an eight-hour work-day and an eight-hour basic

"The first contemplates that eight hours shall be the maximum working time, and as a rule where the eighthour work-day obtains through contract relations between employer and employes, it is the constant endeavor to prevent working overtime except in cases of necessity. It appears that some of the men in the train service are of the opinion that this is the proposal of the organizations. However, this is not the case. The second, the eight-hour basic work-day contemplates that eight hours shall be the basis for a day's work and any time in excess thereof shall be paid for as overtime, consequently under such a provision there is no limit to the hours worked. The latter system is the one proposed by the train service Brotherhoods and is in accord with the action taken by the Alegards at the Elegards.

the delegates, at the Eleventh Bienniai Convention of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.'
Same Work, More Money "The proposals of the employees as in reality formulated and officialexplained in the above citation simply mean that they shall be paid more money than at present for the same work they are now doing. The matter, therefore, resolves itself primarily into a question of wages

and consequently of increased cost. "Applying the proposed demands to the present conditions of work would mean an increase ranging from continue the present hours of operations since changes to escape the No. 1, Red or Black Oak, 7x8, 82 ft. long, 25c. higher percentage of increase than

the figures already given. "The railways of the southeast are a no condition to stand any increase in their operating expenses, much less such increases as would result from granting these demands. They already pay higher wages to train and engine employees than are pair in other sections of the country where traffic is much more dense and they have had no part in the rate increases which recently have been granted by the Interstate Commerce Commission to railways in oth er territories.

"Preliminary estimates show tha on some lines the increases asked by the employes would more than wipout all income after payment of Chamberlain's Liniment a trial operating expenses, fixed charge: The relief from pain which it and taxes. The railways would be forced either to secure increases in ts cost. Obtainable everywhere heir rates or to lower their cost of operation by curtailment of train ser vice and reducing the outlay for main enance and improvement necessary o meet the transportation needs of she rapidly developing southeastern

"This is a question in which the whole public has a direct and vital interest. The railways of the south east merely ask of the public that it inform itself of the real nature of the proposed demands, and of the ability of the roads to most them."

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